

1. (Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and] wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination; and] wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

10. (Amended) [The method of claim 1,] A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;
analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to
the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;
determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;
determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and
generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,
wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and
wherein the analyzing step includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include
travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are
pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

11. (Amended) [The method of claim 1,] A method for providing information
regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a
processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;
analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to
the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;
determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;
determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;
generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations;
[wherein the generating step includes:]
sending at least one price-to-beat request to [a selected] a plurality of service [provider]
providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the

determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries; [and]

receiving a response from each of the service [provider] providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of [that] the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from [the] each of the service [provider] providers may be the same or comparable, according to [the] each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and generating a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

12. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

15. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and] wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

16. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination; and] wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

21. (Amended) [The computer-readable medium of claim 12,] A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and wherein the analyzing step includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include

travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

22. (Amended) [The computer-readable medium of claim 12,] A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;

[wherein the generating step includes:]

sending at least one price-to-beat request to [a selected] a plurality of service [provider] providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries; [and]

receiving a response from each of the service [provider] providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of [that] the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from [the] each of the service [provider] providers may be the same or comparable, according to [the] each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and generating a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

23. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination; and

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.

26. (Amended) The computer system of claim 25, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and] wherein [the] analyzing [step] the travel itinerary includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

27. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, [wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and] wherein the buyer interface assigns

[receiving step includes assigning] geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

28. (Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein [the] analyzing the travel itinerary [step] includes generating a set of locations with coordinates located within a predetermined range of the destination based on information from a geographical coordinates database.

29. (Amended) The computer system of claim 28, wherein [the step of] generating a set of locations includes reducing the range when a number of locations in the set exceeds a predetermined number.

30. (Amended) The computer system of claim 28, wherein [the step of] generating a set of locations includes increasing the range when a number of locations in the set is smaller than a predetermined number.

32. (Amended) [The computer system of claim 23,] A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary; and

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries

comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000

value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and wherein [the] analyzing the travel itinerary [step] includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

33. (Amended) [The computer system of claim 23,] A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

[including] a trader interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing a response from a trader with information on a trader travel itinerary and a value of [that] the trader travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from the trader interface may be the same or comparable, according to the [service provider] trader, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries,

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the response from the trader and generate a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

34. (Amended) [The computer system of claim 23,] A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

[including] a supplier interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing [response] responses from a plurality of service providers with information on [a] service provider travel [itinerary] itineraries and [a] respective values [value] of [that] the service provider travel itineraries [itinerary], wherein each of the travel itineraries [itinerary] from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers [provider], to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries,

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the values of the travel itinerary specified in the requests and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from the service providers and generate a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

35. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, including a supplier interface for receiving availability price requests from the server and for providing availability price responses from a plurality of service providers with information on [a] service provider travel itineraries [itinerary] and [a] respective values [value] of [that] the service provider travel itineraries

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FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-406-4000

[itinerary], wherein each of the travel itineraries [itinerary] from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers [provider], to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries.

36. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

an interface means for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary,
wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

and

a serving means for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.